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HISTORIAN

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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

April 2010

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

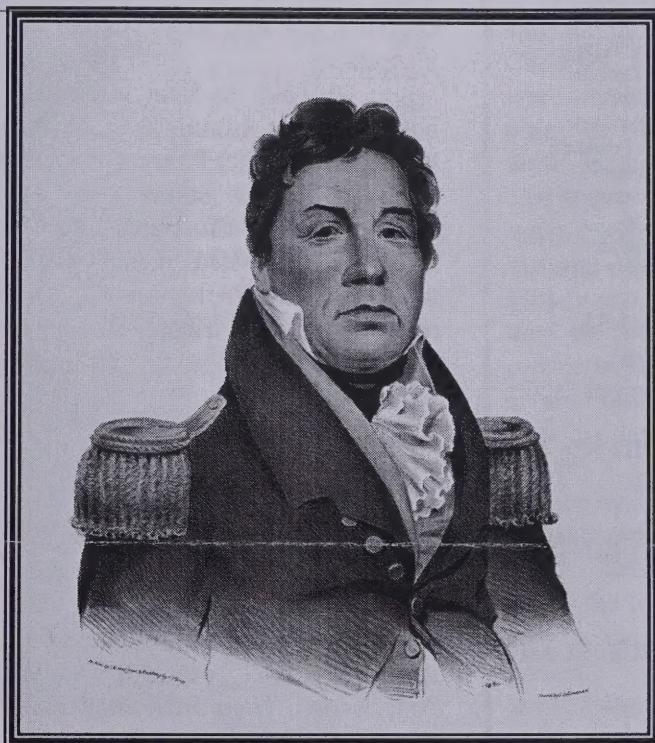
The April luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2010, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Guest speaker will be Patty Furr, Executive Director of the Hancock County Library System. She will give a post-Katrina update on the library system in Hancock County. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 467-4090. Please call by noon on Wednesday, April 14, to make your reservation, to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-five people, and to apprise us of the number for whom to prepare. The price of the lunch is \$10.00.



BEAUTIFY THE YARD!

Spring has arrived! In an ongoing effort to re-beautify the yard at the Kate Lobrano House, we need any shrubs and plants you may wish to donate. We prefer plants which are low maintenance; however, all donations will be appreciated.

Thanks,
Jackie Allain, President



Mississippi's Native Population after the European Intrusion

Edited by
Eddie Coleman

Through the centuries the Mississippi tribes had developed a self-contained lifestyle sufficient for their needs. The European intrusions beginning in the middle of the sixteenth century brought drastic change to the tribes and ultimately an end to their aboriginal lives.

Among the early European visitors was the Spaniard Hernando de Soto, who led a column of conquistadors across the Southeast in

Pushmataha (c. 1765—1824), was a Choctaw Indian chief, who was greatly respected during his lifetime by Native Americans, Europeans, and Americans. He supported the U. S. in the War of 1812 and led his warriors into twenty-four battles against the British and their allies. He died in Washington, D. C. in 1824 and was buried with full military honors in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington.

1539, and entered Indian country. The Native Americans eventually tired of the intruders' demands for grain and other needs and in 1541 attacked the Spanish compound, killing several Europeans, destroying equipment, and finally forcing them out.

Next came the French from their settlements in Canada and the Northwest. In 1673 the Joliet-Marquette party met several Mississippi tribes during its reconnaissance down the Mississippi River. In 1682 a party of Frenchmen and Northern Indians, headed by Robert Cavalier de la Salle, encountered several tribes as they passed down the river. LaSalle's arrival signaled an effort by France to develop the resources of the region, exploit the water route,

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Pat Fuchs, Publisher

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LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MONDAY — FRIDAY
10:00AM — 3:00PM
Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)

MISSION STATEMENT

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

and thwart the English. In 1698 two English traders with a pack train of goods arrived in eastern Mississippi and began trading with the tribes, offering cloth, guns, powder, shot, beads, knives, and other items. The Indians traded deer skins and Indian captives who were shackled and marched to Carolina and sold as slaves on the plantations.

In 1698 the Bishop of Quebec sent two missionaries to the tribes, and in 1699 Pierre LeMoyne Sieur d'Iberville sailed into the Gulf of Mexico. To check English influence, he invited Indian leaders to accept French dominion. The three populous tribes—Choctaw, Natchez, and Chickasaw—willingly did so.

French-English Competition

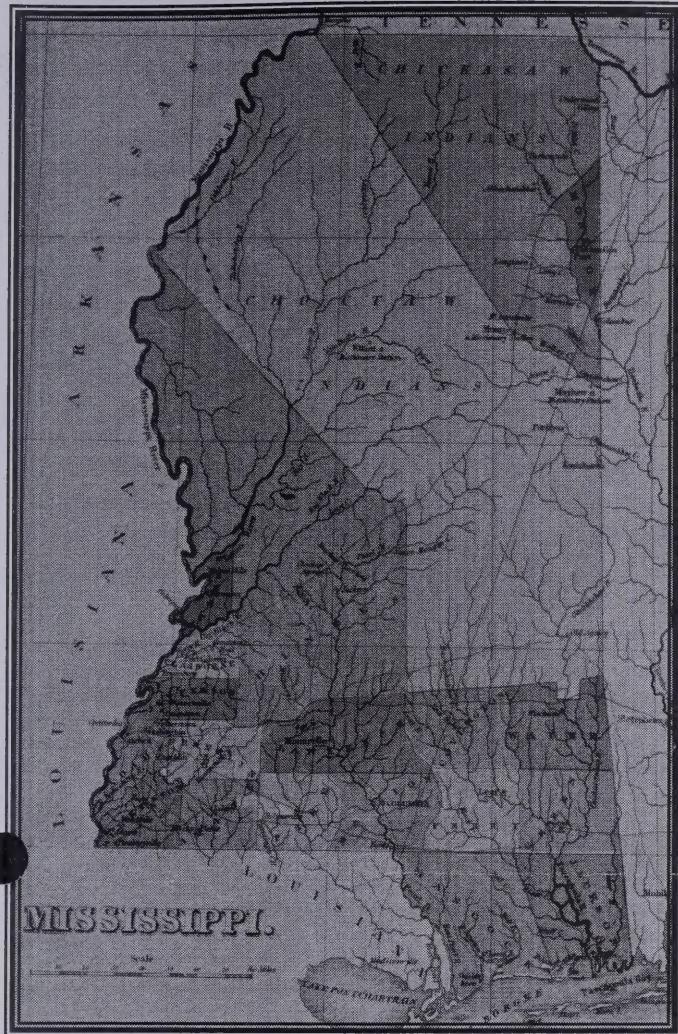
The struggle between France and England for political and commercial control over the lower Mississippi Valley had a destructive effect on the Native Americans. Their increasing consumption of European goods and

reliance on English tools and weapons changed the subsistence hunter into a frantic businessman, searching for items to trade. As demand for pelts led to extermination of fur-bearing animals in the area, some native hunters crossed the Mississippi in search of new hunting grounds. But many hovered near the French settlements, eking out a degraded existence, their numbers decimated by smallpox, measles, and venereal disease brought from Europe.

The slave trade virtually exterminated several small tribes. The Chickasaws were fierce warriors and excellent hunters who collected rich pelts and captives for the English. French attempts to force the Chickasaws to abandon the English and expand agricultural settlements in Natchez lands led to a series of bloody French-Indian wars in Mississippi, having the effect of integrating certain tribes and scattering others. By 1731 the Natchez nation had been erased. Between 1736 and 1752 war on the Chickasaws raged, but the French were unable to dislodge them.



Landing of Pierre LeMoyne, Sieur d'Iberville on the Mississippi Gulf Coast



Spoils of War

The Seven Years' War between France and England ended with the Peace of Paris in 1763. The British received the eastern half of the Mississippi valley, and its Indians were received into British dominion.

Indian lands were administered by British officials who set rules on trade and protected the tribes from encroachment by settlers in West Florida. Immigrants from the British Isles, West Indies, and the American seaboard colonies followed the British takeover. They traveled through Chickasaw and Choctaw territory with many of them squatting on Indian lands.

Indian leaders demanded that the British survey their lands, set boundaries, and expel intruders.

The American Revolution

The British made use of Indian warriors in blockading American units in the American Revolution. After the war both Chickasaw and Choctaw leaders signed treaties with the United States. The Spaniards tried to lure them away from the Americans, but both looked to the Americans for guidance and protection. Choctaw chief Pushmataha and Chickasaw chief Piomingo warned the United States of growing Spanish strength. By 1811 each tribe had a federal agent whose duty it was to

Early statehood map of Mississippi, ca. 1822. The three counties shown on the eastern border of the state from the Gulf of Mexico north are Jackson, Green, and Wayne. On their western borders are Hancock, Perry, and Covington. From the northern Louisiana border northward are Marion & Pike, Lawrence, and Hinds (the extremely large county with the angled eastern border). Finally (south to north) are Amite & Wilkinson, Franklin & Adams, Jefferson, Claiborne, and Warren. The area bounded by Alabama on the east, Wayne and Covington on the south and Hinds on the west is Choctaw land.

enforce the law on intruders, traders, and contraband and also to "civilize the Indians."

The Exodus

The history of the tribes in Mississippi between 1795 and 1837 is a chronicle of retreat, land loss, and diminished domains until the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations were annihilated as ethnic communities in Mississippi and relocated west of the Mississippi in Indian Territory. Events were shaped by organization of the territory of Mississippi, expansion of American settlements, and pressures by settlers on the federal government to reduce tribal domains and open new lands. The admission of Mississippi to the Union in 1817 created for the Choctaws and Chickasaws an impossible situation with an inevitable outcome.

Despite threats to their existence, the tribes confirmed their loyalty to the United States by disregarding Tecumseh's attempts to involve them in his confederation to make war on the States and also by providing fighting men for American armies.

Great pressure was applied by settlers to government officials to force the Choctaws and Chickasaws to surrender their lands. Rather than a total surrender of tribal domains and removal to Indian Territory, it amounted to a piecemeal nibbling at Indian lands until only a small core of each remained. Those remaining were subject to public and private, legal and illegal pressure, intimidation and exploitation until tribal leaders, disillusioned and cynical of government treaty obligations, prepared to leave.

Between 1816 and 1837 a series of treaties ceded millions of acres of Choctaw and Chickasaw

domains in return for encouragement to evacuate to Indian Territory in the West.

The Choctaw Nation was liquidated by the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830. The Chickasaws signed a total cession in the Treaty of Pontotoc in 1843.

Eventually the Chickasaws joined the Choctaws and colonized the western portion of the Choctaw Nation in Indian Territory.

Not all of the Choctaws in Mississippi moved to Indian Territory, however. About four to six thousand of them remained in the state with living conditions for most of them being quite substandard. Rather than live on "Indian lands," others kept to themselves and shunned and were shunned by their fellow Mississippians. Some in Hancock County and in other areas of the state fled to the swamps and lived quiet lives there.

Notwithstanding Choctaw chief Greenwood LeFlore, the son of a Choctaw princess and a French-Canadian fur trader, remained in Mississippi and flourished. He became an American citizen, a successful businessman, and a state politician who counted Jefferson Davis among his personal friends. Moving in the circle of elite society, he

served in the Mississippi legislature as a representative and later as a senator.

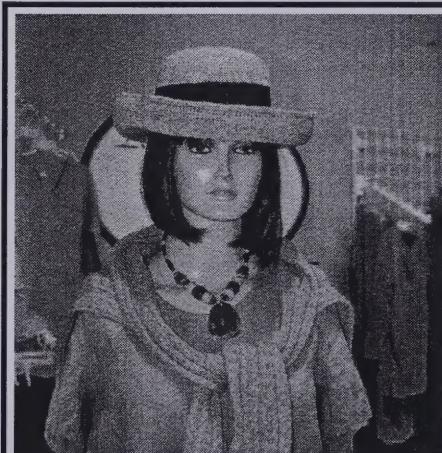
By official count fewer than two thousand Choctaws remained in the state after 1930. But since World War II the Choctaw nation has flourished in Mississippi. Reorganization and the establishment of a tribal government and changes in federal laws plus the leadership of Phillip Martin, chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians from 1978—2007, have helped the Indians take control of their lives. Through their own economic development, the Choctaws now have industries on tribal land including automotive parts, greeting cards, direct mail and printing, plastic molding, and casino gaming. The Pearl River Resort, owned and operated by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, in Choctaw, MS, is one of their most lucrative economic ventures.

Even though European intrusion threatened to destroy the existence of the great Native American tribes, they have adapted, persevered, and endured. Threads of their native tongues have been woven into the fabric of American society and can be seen in such place names as Pascagoula, Yazoo, and Bogue Chitto. The abiding words of William Faulkner apply to these peoples. "I believe that man will not merely endure. He will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion, sacrifice, and endurance."

SOURCE:

Gibson, Arrell M. "The Indians of Mississippi" in *A History of Mississippi*, Vol. 1 ed. Richard Aubrey McLemore. Jackson: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1973.

"Greenwood LeFlore." *Nationmaster*. 12 Mar. 2010 <<http://statemaster.com/encyclopedia/Greenwood-LeFlore>>.



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April 10, Second Saturday, 2:00 P. M.—
Linda Deniger will present a special kids
puppet show and read from her book
Salty Seas.

April 17, 10:00 A. M.—Dr. Nancy Lottridge
Anderson of Mississippi Public Broadcasting
will discuss her book
Tough Talk for Tough Times.

April 12, 6:30 P. M.—Hugh Ambrose will
sign his book *The Pacific*, a companion to the
HBO series, at the Hancock County Library
on Highway 90.

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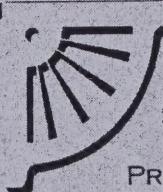


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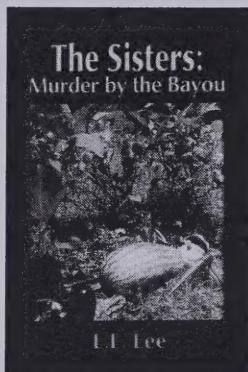
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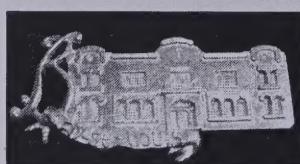
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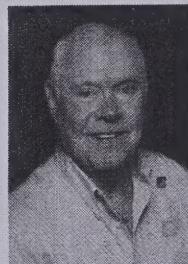
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